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1216-63

23 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director Assistant Secretary of
Defense R & E

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SUBJECT : Preliminary Planning for [REDACTED]

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1. Following our discussions of the [REDACTED] plan on 2 August, and again on Sunday, we agreed that it is important to chart our course for the immediate future. It is my understanding that we will proceed incrementally in creating the [REDACTED] organization as a national focus for producing all source, authoritative intelligence summaries of individual missile and space events. In this sense it would be similar to the analysis portion of the present [REDACTED] organization. It is our understanding that we will delay further discussion of a parallel collection function until the analysis activity is a working reality, commanding community respect.

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2. I have discussed the matter with Mr. McCone and it is our preference to fund and establish this organization under CIA management as an activity of common concern for the intelligence community. It is my understanding that you feel that a joint DOD/CIA partnership such as the NRO arrangement may prove to be the right way to proceed, especially since NSA has a large stake in it. However, we have both agreed that we must proceed much further in our understanding of what needs to be done and who the qualified participants are before this issue can be rationally discussed.

3. As I mentioned last weekend, Mr. Carl Duckett who is now Director of Army Missile Intelligence Activities, is joining CIA in late September. One of his primary responsibilities will be to size the [REDACTED] task in all its dimensions and identify the logical participants. I believe we are agreed that no further implementation action will be taken on [REDACTED] until Mr. Duckett has provided us with a basis for selection. If you like, I can arrange to have Mr. Duckett brief you periodically. Of course, I also hope that the good offices of DDR&E and your staff would be

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available to him.

4. I believe that we have here the beginnings of a very significant national capability which does not now exist, and which we are making constructive steps toward creating.

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ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
(Science and Technology)

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